

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4282

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of toll-free telephone communications through which residents of rural areas can obtain information on the availability in such areas of health services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1994

Ms. ENGLISH of Arizona introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of toll-free telephone communications through which residents of rural areas can obtain information on the availability in such areas of health services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Access to Rural Health
5 Information Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO PROVIDE**
2 **HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION TO RESI-**
3 **DENTS OF RURAL AREAS.**

4 Section 338J of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 254r) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (i) through (k)
7 as subsections (j) through (l), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (h) the follow-
9 ing subsection:

10 “(i) SEPARATE PROGRAM REGARDING RURAL
11 HEALTH TELEPHONE HOTLINES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
13 through the Director of the Office of Rural Health
14 Policy, may make grants to States for the purpose
15 of establishing and operating toll-free telephone com-
16 munications through which individuals residing in
17 rural areas of the State can obtain information on
18 the availability to the individuals of health services.

19 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may
20 make a grant under paragraph (1) only if the State
21 involved agrees that the grant will be administered
22 through the office of rural health of the State.

23 “(3) CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary
24 may make a grant under paragraph (1) only if the
25 State involved agrees as follows:

1 “(A) Information available to individuals
2 under such paragraph will include information
3 on particular health professionals, including,
4 with respect to the professionals involved, the
5 following: Name and address (and instructions
6 for locating the address); telephone number; of-
7 fice hours; the available types of services; and
8 the forms of payment accepted (including a
9 specification regarding health insurance policies
10 and plans, and participation of the professionals
11 in Federal and State health programs).

12 “(B)(i) Information available to individuals
13 under such paragraph will include information
14 on the availability of the following services: Pre-
15 ventive care (including routine screenings and
16 including immunizations against vaccine-pre-
17 ventable diseases); prenatal care; counseling for
18 the abuse of alcohol and drugs; other health-re-
19 lated counseling; domestic violence; sexual
20 abuse; and such other matters as the Secretary
21 may specify.

22 “(ii) The information available under
23 clause (i) will be designed for the rural area in-
24 volved, with consideration of the particular
25 health status of the residents of the area.”.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 338J(k) of the Public
3 Health Service Act, as redesignated by section 2 of this
4 Act, is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
6 graph (3);

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the follow-
8 ing paragraph:

9 “(2) RURAL HEALTH HOTLINES.—For the pur-
10 pose of making grants under subsection (i), there
11 are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for fis-
12 cal year 1995, \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 1996, and
13 \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1997.”; and

14 (3) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by
15 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “this sub-
16 section”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 338J(l) of
18 the Public Health Service Act, as redesignated by section
19 2 of this Act, is amended—

20 (1) by striking “this section” and inserting
21 “subsection (a)”; and

22 (2) by striking “subsection (j)(1)” and inserting
23 “subsection (k)(1)”.

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